to bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas.

(b) and (c) Under this Programme an amount of Rs. 4.38 crores has been released to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 1999-2000. Rural Sanitation is a State subject. Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government through Central Rural Sanitation Programme. The funds to the States/Union Territories are being provided under this Programme as per the norms prescribed in the Programme Guidelines.

Scheme for selecting and developing Model Villages

4363. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a policy for selecting some villages in the country to develop as 'Model Villages';

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) how many of such villages have been identified from Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) what will be the role of State Government in this Scheme

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) As per information received from HUDCO, HUDCO had launched Model Village/Model Basti Scheme as a part of new initiative in the 50th year of India's Independence during the financial year 1997-98. As per HUDCO's guidelines, 2 villages/bastis are to be developed as Model Village/Model Basti in each State/UT. HUDCO is also providing Grant assistance up to Rs. 35 lakh for each Model Village. The difference between the project cost and the grant assistance is to be met by the State Government/Union Territories/Implementing Agencies/Beneficiaries by converging other resources of Central/ State Government Schemes. The Scheme for development of Model Village is to be approved by the State Government for availing the grant assistance from HUDCO. In the State of Uttar Pradesh, 5 Model villages have been sanctioned by HUDCO for a total grant assistance of Rs. 175 lakh.